

Nellie Leland School for Crippled Children

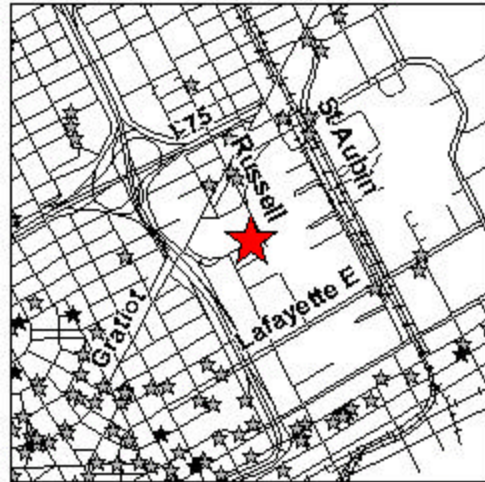
1395 Antietam Street

Local

State

State Marker

National v 2/14/02



Historic overview:

The Nellie Leland School for Crippled Children was completed in 1918, and was the first public school designed exclusively for physically challenged children in the city. The school attracted wide attention because of its unusual design features including ramps from the main to the third floor. The school was named in memory of Nellie Leland, a trustee of several of Detroit's charitable organizations, whose main endeavor was to care for the tubercular poor in the city. Her husband assisted her in establishing and directing organizations on the scientific care and treatment of the tubercular, and carried on after Nellie's death in 1910. In 1912, at his own expense, he built and equipped the first open-air school in Michigan for children in the first stages of tuberculosis. The school was extremely successful. By 1917 the open air school was transferred to Marr School on Grand River, and Mrs. Leland's name was shifted to the new School for Crippled Children that had just been constructed by the Board of Education.

In 1920 an addition was recommended to eliminate the waiting list of children seeking admittance. An elevator was also installed, making Leland School one of the first schools in the city to have one. The school operated until 1981. The property was purchased in the mid 1980s by Stroh Properties, Inc. Developer Joel Landy, who will be renovating the building for use as a charter school, purchased the building in 2000.

A bronze tablet (now gone) once hung on the outside wall of the Leland School. Placed there in 1925 by the Daughters of the G.A.R., it marked the site as the former location of Detroit Barracks from 1830 to 1866. Lieutenant U.S. Grant commanded from 1849 to 1851, and the post served as a military recruiting station during the Civil War.

